



PART 3

AVIATION COMBAT ELEMENT PROGRAMS

The Aviation Combat Element (ACE) is task-organized to conduct air operations, project combat power, and contribute to battlespace dominance in support of the MAGTF mission. It accomplishes this by performing the six functions of Marine aviation: anti-air warfare, assault support, electronic warfare, offensive air support, air reconnaissance, and control of aircraft and missiles. The ACE is formed around an aviation headquarters with air control agencies, aircraft squadrons or groups, and combat service support units and can vary in size and composition from an aviation detachment of specific aircraft to one or more Marine aircraft wings. The ACE may be employed from ships in the sea base, right-sized expeditionary airfields, or optimized austere sites. The following programs will enhance ACE effectiveness in the current and future combat environment.